ISSUE 143 JUNE 2019

KNOTTING MATTERS

The Magazine of the International Guild of Knot Tyers

INTERNATIONAL GUILD OF KNOT TYERS

The International Guild of Knot Tyers (IGKT) is a registered UK Charity No. 802153

PRESIDENT
Bob Dollar
e-mail: president@igkt.net

HON SEC
David Bodger
e-mail: secretary@igkt.net

IGKT POSTAL ADDRESS
IGKT
Oaken Cleave, Cobbaton,
Umberleigh, EX37 9SG, UK

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
Caroline Sandrey
15 Spey Close, Thornbury,
Bristol, BS35 2NR, UK
e-mail: membership@igkt.net

www.igkt.net
Items intended for the website should be submitted to Colin Byfleet at
cr@byfleet.org

Subscription Rates	
	/year
Juniors (under 18)	£5
Adults	£26
Family	£30
Group (min 10)	by arrangement

KNOTTING MATTERS

THE MAGAZINE OF THE INTERNATIONAL GUILD OF KNOT TYERS

EDITORIAL BOARD
Maurice McPartlan (Editor-in-Chief)
Gordon Teenan
David Pepper

Postal Address
Knotting Matters, 23 Stoms Path, London SE6 3QJ, UK

The editors welcome the submission of letters, articles, photographs and sketches for publication. Correspondence may be by e-mail knottingmatters@igkt.net but more extensive items, such as articles for publication, as well as any pictures, which should be of good quality, need to be sent as attachments. All submissions must include their author's name and e-mail or postal address.

If events are to be publicised in *Knotting Matters*, note the months of publication - March, June, September and December. Although the deadline for the next issue is given at the foot of the Contents page, please note that the editors begin putting it together at least three weeks earlier.

Except as otherwise indicated, copyright in *Knotting Matters* is reserved to the International Guild of Knot Tyers, IGKT 2019. Copyright of articles published in *Knotting Matters* is reserved to the authors and permission to reprint should be sought from the author and the editor. All sources of quotations printed in *Knotting Matters* are hereby acknowledged.

ISSN 0959-2881
PRINTED BY GIPPING PRESS Ltd
Tel: 01449 721599

KNOTTING MATTERS

Issue 143 June 2019

2	Editorial	29	2019 Spring Meeting Weymouth, UK
3	Letters	32	Knot So Trivial
9	Strength of Knots	34	Hang on a Minute
11	8-Strand Lanyard	36	Captain George Hart Bursary
13	Windy Chien	37	Knot Art
15	Mocha Loop Knot	38	Book Reviews
16	More Sheepshanks	39	Knot Tying Day
17	Woven Curling Ribbon	40	Obituaries
19	The Periodic Table in Macramé	42	Branch News
26	Entomological Knot Tying	45	Supplies

Pull-out: A Globe Knot easily tied around a golf ball

PLEASE NOTE: LETTERS & ARTICLES FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2019 *KNOTTING MATTERS* MUST BE RECEIVED BY 3rd AUGUST

FRONT COVER: MACRAMÉ - HYDROGEN PANEL USING ALL BACKGROUND COLOURS P19

EDITORIAL

Greetings from the 2019 Spring Meeting and AGM at Nothe Fort in Weymouth UK. Many thanks to the Dorset branch for all their hard work in preparing for the meeting. About 70 attendees took advantage of their warm welcome.

One of the presentations on the Friday was given by our Editor in Chief who talked about our three years as editors of *Knotting Matters*. Possibly the most surprising revelation from the talk was that between them, the editors wrote about 25% of the 12 editions they had produced, though they would rather it were otherwise. The editors also informed those present that there would be no more pull-outs unless they received suggestions and help from members. June's edition contains a method, devised by Dave Lambert, for tying a Globe Knot. Many thanks to him, and to Colin Grundy for an idea for September. Keep the suggestions coming!

There was also an exhibition of artefacts featured in articles written in the last year. We want to thank all those who sent or brought artefacts or other objects to make the exhibition possible. See some pictures from Weymouth on pp29-31.

Recently, IGKT members in several countries were targeted by a credible, but fraudulent email. It appeared to come from a known guild member who purported to be in trouble and need assistance. A few members attempted to help him but discovered the fraud in time. Known as the 'Stranded Traveller Scam', usually sent by email as it can easily reach thousands of people at once, can be very convincing. The scammer wins if only one of them believes the story. On p8 Jim Wolf of Florida summarises help offered on the US Federal Trade Commission Consumer Information website https://tinyurl.com/hllvmte

Terry Barns has filled the role of Supplies Secretary for more than six years. He's enjoyed the job, 'meeting' all sorts of interesting people, but reckons it's time someone else took over. Thanks Terry, for such sterling service to IGKT and all those interesting people.

We draw your attention to the beautiful piece of macramé work representing the Periodic Table, pp19-25. As promised in March, this edition of *KM* contains full details about the Captain George Hart Bursary, see p36.

We are pleased to include two branch reports in this edition and hope that this is a sign that we might be getting back to more regular news of all our branches.

Best wishes to the members attending the Australian Branch meeting!

The Editors

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Maurice,

The review of a reprint of Hasluck's *The Art of Knot Tying* in *KM* 141 calls for some context. Firstly, the title is new for this old book, originally *Knotting and Splicing Ropes and Cordage*, in 1904 London, 1905 Philadelphia. I don't know what distinguishes the 1908 edition, but there is a 1952 edition, revised by Eric Franklin, which moved some things around and has a different page count.

While one might need to buy the newly printed book to read Des's Foreword, the main point is that the book's fuller contents are available on line via the *Work* magazine projects, digitizing that periodical's full, long history of publication!

The *KM* review's cryptic first line -Ed Paul N Hasluck Endless ... - might be misinterpreted as giving Hasluck a name 'Ed'. In fact, this is the title given to Hasluck for the book, which otherwise gives no hint of the origin of the contents. He stands in relation to its contents much as the infamous Tom Bowling does to his *The Book of Knots*. Bowling simply extracted the knots chapter from a large French work, and translated it into English, Hasluck has similarly simply taken the *Work* articles published in 1891/2 by Lancelot L. Haslope into book form, with some omissions and a few edits.

As for the value of the book in terms of information, it is quite typically cursory and sometimes dubious (if not worse). In his *Sailor's Knots* bibliography, C L Day rates it 'poor'.

Dan Lehman

Falls Church City, Virginia, USA

Dear Maurice,

In case you're laying awake nights, swithering about what to do with that nasty piece of rope cluttering up the place, then here's an idea. A flat Turks Head springs to mind which kills two birds with one stone. A perennial issue is what length you need for what. It would be nice to have a reference work to look up, so next time anyone makes something, perhaps they would write in giving the amount used, diameter etc, a picture would help, then those editors, who have nothing better to do could compile a list, update it on occasion and publish it for universal benefit. So here it is, about 14.5m of 10mm rope makes this mat.

For reasons I have forgotten, I have another piece of the same length, so what to do with that? And if someone could remind me where I got them, I would be very pleased!

Here's another thing, when you have made something, what do you do with it? Keep it, (early sign of hoarding?) give it away and, if so, did the recipient really want it? Take it apart, re-use it? I don't like doing that because I'm back to square one, see above. Some ideas or some suggestions on any of the above would be appreciated.

W Kerr

Dear Editors,

There was a suggestion in my article in *KM* 141 that I was 'setting my sights' on some variations of the cat-o'-nine tails (as inspired by Des's *Knot Craft & Rope Mats*). The variations I had in mind at the time involved a visualisation in my head of a yin & yang look, in which there were two colours at play, switching places on the handles.

Having put my mind to it, I realized that it might be nice to carry the theme into the tails of the cat. After a little experimentation, I decided each cat, as well as having opposing colour handles, would also include one opposing colour tail.

I included this tail in the Matthew Walker knot which, for each, ended up giving me a kind of tick of approval on the side of the knot (red tick on black, black tick on red). This contrasting strand was then 'lost' into the body of the handle and its colour reflected in the handle itself (the 23L 8B Turks Head).

The attached picture shows the result, carrying this idea as close as I could into a representation of a red and black yin & yang image. Overall, I'm quite pleased and wanted to share it in the hope that others might like to see it.

Regards,

Mac

(Editors' note: Very impressive design and execution, thanks Mac.)

Dear Maurice,

Some members will have experienced the embarrassing occasion when, on mentioning the International Guild of Knot Tyers, they have been met with something between smiles and guffaws of laughter.

Since a smack in the mouth sometimes offends, you have to wait till it subsides, then point out things like our past President's work on the application of knots in DNA theory, and the dozens of trades that rely on their ability to tie various knots. Not to mention their own need for them in more mundane and personal settings, such as keeping their shoes on and tying their ties. We have even been used to amuse the viewers and audience on the BBC programme *Have I Got News For You*.

So, the question is - should we change our name, and if so, to what? Many venerable bodies have done so to their benefit, from political parties to charitable institutions. Before you pounce on your PC, I think we can rule out 'Knotty McKnot Face'.

People can't remember our present name, and they get the order of letters wrong in IGKT. The title is long and unwieldy. Something short and snappy would stick in the mind and save time, space, and money at the printers. It could elicit a more serious response, and fewer skinned knuckles.

W Kerr

Hi Maurice

Just received *KM* 142. Another 'high distinction' for the editors.

For what it's worth (and I hope you get lots of letters on this one), I would argue that in the family of Wall knots, regardless of the number of strands, the 'true' Mathew Walker is where the number of 'tucks' equals the number of strands. Or, if you like, to put that another way if, after having tied the knot, all but one strand is untied and removed and the last strand remains tied as a simple overhand knot, then the knot was a Mathew Walker. Otherwise, it was a variation of a Wall Knot. I hope that made sense. I know what I mean!

On the lighter side, I thought you might like the attached. At our last Toowoomba Plaiters and Whipmakers Group at the Cobb and Co Museum, while one of our members was showing two very interested young girls how to plait a belt, their older siblings fell in behind to plait their hair. Now that's what I call learning by social osmosis.

Jim Caswell

Australia

Hi Maurice,

A long time ago, I took a Lloyds rigging course. During the part in the classroom, the lecturer just happened to say ‘There is even a way of moving barrels’, and I said, ‘Yes, it’s called a Parbuckle’. He started to speak then stopped for a minute, stuck for words. ‘Well blow me, all the years I’ve been doing this, no one has ever known that’. Every now and then you get a chance to shine!

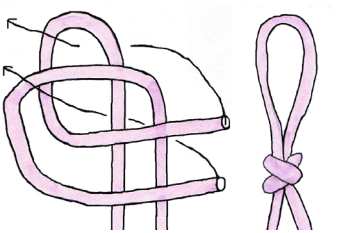
I got to thinking, as you do, barrels haven’t faded into history, they still need moving, so what do they do now? Perhaps one amongst our vast readership would let us know (see *ABOK* #2020 to refresh your memory).

By the way, I hope your letters column will be full of comments about Matthew Walker. Touching on which, here’s something I found today. Should we know more?

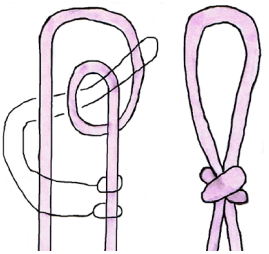
N King

Dear Maurice,

There have been many variations of what constitutes a True Lovers’ knot. Any interlinked overhand knot seems to lay claim to being the true one, even though the genuine True Lovers’ knot is not a material thing at all, because it is a knot that is tied with the tongue and cannot be undone with the teeth. I like to think that the material knot is *ABOK* #795 a two-strand Matthew Walker (below). It has been proposed that this knot has its origin in the ‘Nodus Herculaneus’, a greatly esteemed sacred knot of Hercules, with a resemblance to the snake-entwined Caduceus or Rod of Hermes.



To go back to the two-strand Matthew Walker, there is a story that goes along with the knot to justify calling it a True Lovers’ knot: the two strands of the knot represent two people joined together by the two rings, meaning a love that has no end. And being intertwined means that their lives are intertwined, and that pulling in any direction on the knot only strengthens their love.



I like to think that for every positive there has to be a negative. So I came up with the False Lovers’ Knot (left). This has similarities to the above knot with its two strands representing two people joined together by two cords, and two rings, but going in opposite directions to the True Lovers’ knot.

Though they appear to be interlinked lives from the front, they are separate lives at the back. While pulling on one cord the love stands firm, by pulling on the other it slips away and the true love is destroyed.

That is my theory. Perhaps other members have other ideas about this knot. All is not lost, however, as a False Lovers' knot makes a good slip knot. The two knots do have a redeeming feature in common, they are like pages of a book with a story to tell.

Owen K Nuttall

Dear Maurice,

The one-page article of Europa's version of a True Love knot *KM* 140. You seem to prefer this version to the one I submitted in October last year. It would have enabled *KM* readers to make a comparison between a job description knot and my version of a True Lovers' knot (a 2-strand Matthew Walker knot, similar to Matthew Walker knots submitted by you in *KM* 142).

In the same *KM* 142: my Carrick bend the Falmouth way, this was sent as an article. The heading 'Carrick bend the Falmouth way' was not included and, Dear Maurice, was added to make it appear as a letter. The concept on the forming on the Guild was to promote knotting. Which is more informative, the history of the Carrick bend and multiple versions of tying the Carrick bend the Falmouth way, or a one page article of two wire knots, which are wrong, in the same *KM* 142? I have spent fifty years in the building trade. To attach a loop to a wood fence post in the first photo, it would be secured tight to the fence post and stapled to prevent it slipping. All wires would be stapled to wood fence posts. (If concrete posts were used, the wire would be secured to a threaded eye-bolt). Repairing a broken line between two posts in the second photo (impossible, where did the spare wire come from?). Fencing, a long way in the outback, each broken wire between the two posts would be looped back on itself and hitched. And a short wire threaded through the two loops, then it would be doubled back, crossed in the middle and hitched to secure a broken line. Let's having a level playing field.

Owen.

Editors' Note: We were a little surprised to receive this criticism from you, Owen. We value the input of your numerous articles and letters over many years including two in the previous edition. But a correspondent of your distinction being unable to accept the veracity of someone else's report of their experience because it doesn't accord with your own is disappointing, to say the least, and we are at a loss as to your reference to a 'level playing field'; KM will remain an 'Equal Opportunities' publication while under our editorship.

Dear Sir

It is great to see that the RN continues its tradition of knotting, and I am particularly pleased to see an article by a female seaman specialist.

I am a little puzzled as to why she makes red lanyards for engineers.

If, as I suspect, it is on the basis of the colours worn between the stripes prior to 1955, then the colour should be purple. (I write with the prejudice of someone whose distinction cloth was red - the medical branch)

Yours,

Charley Johnston.

However, if as an alternative, you could simply forward this to Jessica, in many ways that would be better, and not clutter up *Knotting Matters* with what is a very small detail.

Editors' note: We did pass on the letter to Jessica and she replied to Charley that, though she knew about the traditional use of colours, they had to make lanyards with the colours available. She added that there was also an element of personal preference either of the makers or of the relevant departments.

IGKT members spot a 'Stranded Traveller Scam' just in time

Jim Wolf summarises some advice from US Consumer Information website

1. Scammers often pretend to be someone you know or trust. Don't give money or personal information in response to an unexpected request.

2. Don't believe your caller's ID. Scammers can fake caller IDs. If you think a caller might be telling the truth, call back to a number you know to be genuine.

3. Don't pay upfront on promises such as debt relief, loan offers, mortgage assistance, a job, or even a prize for which tax needs to be paid in advance.

4. Consider how you pay. Credit cards have significant fraud protection built in, but some payment methods don't.

5. Take your time. Con artists want you to make decisions in a hurry.

6. Hang up on automated calls which are usually illegal and the offers bogus. Don't be tempted to press a key to speak to somone or to be taken off the list.

7. Be sceptical about free trial offers. Some companies use them to sign you up for products and then bill you monthly until you cancel.

8. Don't deposit a sender's check (cheque) into your bank account and send them money in return. By law (in the US), banks must make funds from deposited checks available within days, but uncovering a fake check can take weeks. If a deposit turns out to be a fake, the depositor is responsible for repaying the bank.

Most people are honest, but we do need to take the time to question and verify what we read.

Strength of Knots

by Colin Byfleet

The way in which a knot in a rope reduces its strength is difficult to ascertain, being dependent on many variables – rope diameter, pliability, lay of rope vs handedness of knot, slipperiness of surface etc.

Recently, I came upon an article in *Yachting Monthly* from 2015 which was new to me and possibly to other readers of *KM.* It describes a visit of their reporter to Marlow Ropes, one of the largest UK manufacturers and using their tensile-strength testing machinery. The full article is available at https://www.yachtingmonthly.com/sailing-skills/strongest-sailing-knot-30247.

They made measurements of the percentage of the breaking strain of three samples of cordage with various knots tied in them – an overhand knot and different loops and bends. There didn't appear to be repeat measurements, so it wasn't a particularly scientific approach. Their results are given below.

Percentage of breaking strain of ropes knotted or spliced

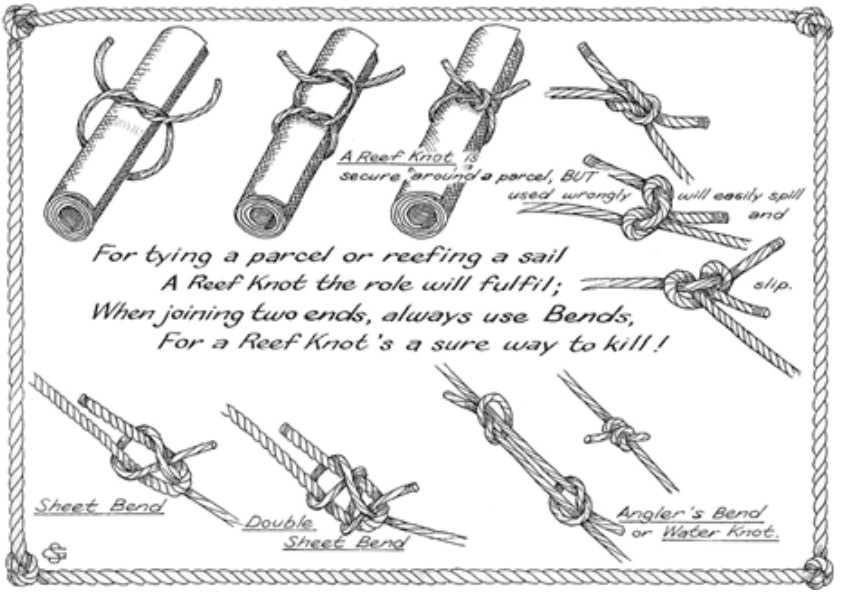
	10mm	12mm	14mm	
	Dyneema	Marlowbraid	3-strand	
		polyester	polyester	
Unknotted breaking strain	5.4	4.5	3.9	in tonnes force
	%	%	%	of full breaking load
Overhand knot	35	35		
Loops				
Round turn & 2 half hitches			67	
Bowline	35	47	62	
Eye splice	81	82	95	best
Flemish loop / Fig-8 loop	35	53		
Anchor bend	35	71		
Double Fisherman's loop	39	82		
Splicing nut	9	32		
Bends				
Reef knot	17	27*		*capsized
Sheet bend	17*	40		*capsized
Double Sheet bend	22	44		
Fisherman's knot/bend	20	41		
Double Fisherman's knot	30	58		best

Several items of interest emerge from the table:

1 Splicing, with its gentler curves, is less weakening than any knot or bend in which the radius of curvature is always quite small.
2 The rigidity of Dyneema causes it to lose a greater proportion of its strength than the softer polyesters.
3 The traditionally laid polyester is considerably more accommodating to knots than the more modern cords.
4 When spliced, Dyneema is the strongest, despite having the lowest cross-sectional area (roughly half that of the laid rope).
5 When knotted, the more flexible materials win.
6 Splicing nuts are not useful.
7 A Reef knot should never be used as a bend which is no surprise. It frequently collapses.*
8 Tied in Dyneema the Sheet bend collapses nearly as often, which is more surprising.

As the main aim of the article was to look at the strengths of the knots or bends in three types of rope, the lack of data, especially for the laid rope, is annoying. It is very probable that, of the knots tested, the Double Fisherman's knot would also be good in laid rope, as the curvature is not that different from that in a round turn.

*A drawing by IGKT past-president and prolific author, Stewart Grainger, makes the point eloquently.


A Reef Knot is secure around a parcel, BUT used wrongly will easily spill and slip.
For tying a parcel or reefing a sail
A Reef Knot the role will fulfil;
When joining two ends, always use Bends,
For a Reef Knot's a sure way to kill!
Sheet Bend
Double Sheet Bend
Angler's Bend or Water Knot.

An 8-strand Lanyard

by Yuval Dvoran

This is a model I designed some years ago. It features a lanyard with a loop to put around one's wrist. Of course, you're free to choose any other knots you like, using this model as a point of departure.

The knots used are rather standard, except the round 8-strand braid, for which Bruce Grant gives instructions in *Encyclopedia of Rawhide and Leather Braiding,* Atglen 2008, pp118f. The Pineapple knots are optional, you can leave the Matthew Walker knot uncovered or replace it with any other knot.

Knots and plaits used

4-strand round sennit
8-strand square sennit
8-strand round Gaucho sennit (see below)
8-strand Matthew Walker knot
pineapple knot (based on a 6x7 Turks Head)
6-strand star knot
4-strand crown and wall, doubled

Material

4 x 3m of 0.5–1.00mm
Two cords of the same diameter for making the Pineapple knots (or four, if you want to make them two-coloured), of the same or different colour.

Instructions

After tying a Constrictor knot in the middle of the 8 strands make a 4-strand round sennit, for about 100-150mm in each direction.

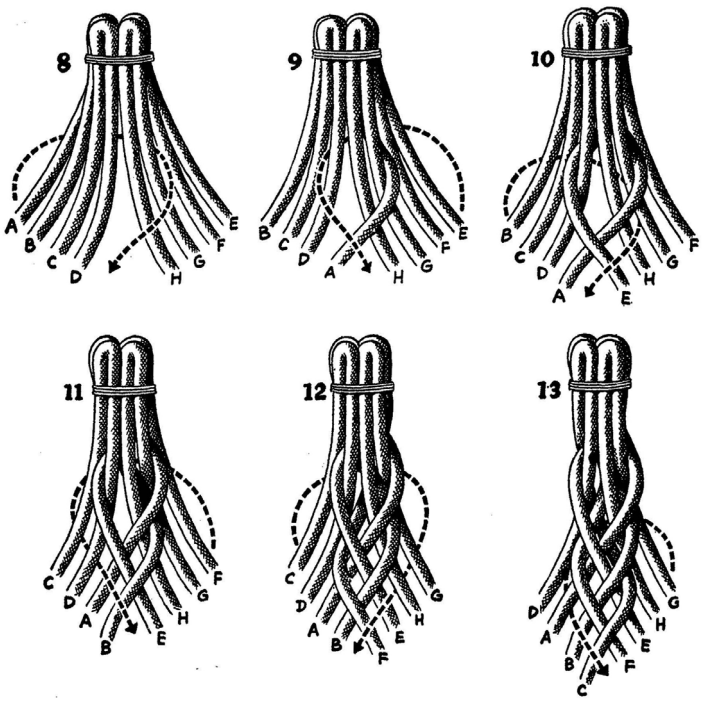
Continue with an 8-strand Matthew Walker.

For about 70mm, tie an 8-strand square sennit.

Next, follow with a 6-strand Star knot, which will be tied around the two other strands.

Now, make a round 8-strand Gaucho sennit for about 350mm.

(As this is a rather uncommon sinnet, we include images from Hervey Garrett Smith, *The Marlinespike Sailor,* 1952, p53 *which we consider rather clearer than Bruce Grant's - Editors)*



Make another star knot, followed by an 8-strand square sennit for 70mm, and finish it with an 8-strand Matthew Walker knot.

Cut 4 alternate ends right at the knot, then make a round 4-strand sennit, which is about 30–40mm longer than the loop at the other end of the lanyard.

Form a little eye with the sennit splicing the four ends into the sennit. Finish with a wall and crown.

Finally, cover the two Matthew Walker knots with Pineapple knots.

Windy Chien

by Richard Hopkins

Windy Chien is a 2nd-generation Chinese American who grew up all around the USA including ten years in Hawaii, as her father was in the military.

She developed an encyclopaedic knowledge and love of music and for many years owned a successful independent music store in San Francisco.

On selling the business, she moved to Apple and helped develop iTunes, serving in a number of management roles before becoming the App Store managing editor.

For a time, Windy acted as a consultant for iOS app development. She considers virtual reality and video games to be two of the most exciting current art forms.

After working behind a desk for many years, she decided she needed to be more physically creative, Windy started to design and make macramé lighting fixtures and large installations of rope and wood, developing on the macramé she had learnt when young from her mother, and woodworking skills her father had taught her.

Once happy with the design, putting the idea into production did not have the same appeal. She wanted to be doing or re-imagining something new.

Becoming impatient with the limited number of knots used in traditional macramé, on 4th January 2016 she started a project, with the help of Ashley, to learn and tie a new knot every day for a year.

Using the principle of simplicity learned at Apple, and believing that elements of art should be used intentionally, she minimised the variables such as colour and scale in order for the knots to emphasize the element she was most interested in, which is the line.

Windy stuck to the same materials each day, two sizes of laid, or three sizes of braided, white cotton cord. To provide contrast, when it was necessary to show how the knot was made, she used blue or black polypropylene, and fine silk for binding.

Some knots, namely hitches, had to be tied around something and copper pipe filled the bill, while the completed knots were fixed to the wall with copper tacks.

Each of the 366 knots (2016 was a leap year) is arranged on a wall in her studio, not in the order in which they were tied, or size, but for no other reason than to help you look clearly at each item. The clarity of the line is important. Where does it go into the knot and what is the path it follows?

Windy's studio used to be an old police station but she has panelled the bare concrete walls with white-painted plywood to display her work at its best.

A couple of pulleys high up in the studio allow work in progress to be raised or lowered as the section on which she works requires. Some of her other works such as 'Circuit Boards', inspired by electronic parts and the New York Subway map, 'Diamond Rings' (made solely with *ABOK* #2027), 'Spinal Columns' (*ABOK* #542) and large rope room-dividers will have benefited from this, as Windy is only 5ft 3in tall but enjoys working on large projects, even clambering into the rafters to fix her work.

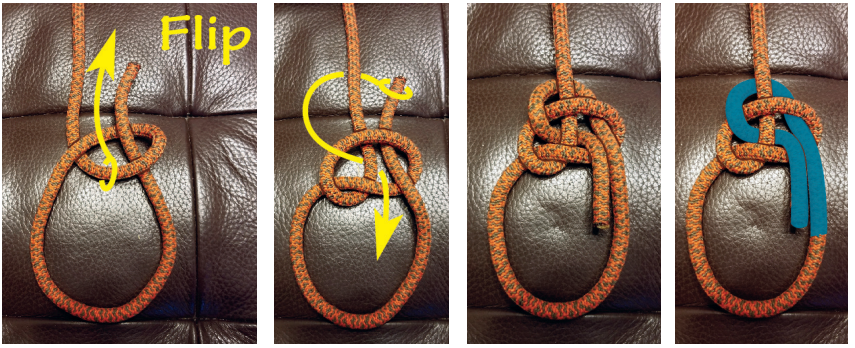
Her Year of Knots came to an end but one of the benefits she found is a blissful state of flow which allows her to achieve a focus on the project she is working on that helps her to work at the limit of her ability in a state of deep productivity. For those who want to keep up with her work, her Instagram handle is @ windychien and a book about The Year of Knots will be published in the Autumn by Abrams.

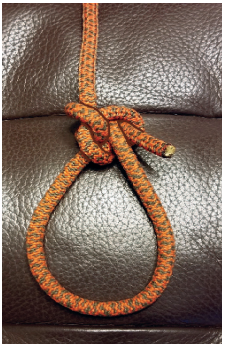
Before you start to wonder, Windy *is* a member of IGKT, but also finds time to teach delicate wooden spoon carving, instruct in Yoga and look after her rescue greyhound.

Mocha Loop Knot

by yChan

This is the Mocha Loop knot I posted to the IGKT Forum in November 2018 as one of my creations. I would now like to publish it in *Knotting Matters*.





It is a loop knot that starts like a Bowline with a nipping loop which folds upwards to form a crossing knot. The tail turns round the standing part and enters the crossing knot, and exits alongside the entry leg.

The working end (marked in blue) acts like a 'split pin' and marlinspike, locking the knot.
By pulling the standing part, the knot squeezes into two halves (left and right). It closes like a book and is hidden. This knot does not slip when shaken or ring-loaded. To untie the knot, one opens the two halves and releases the 'split pin'.

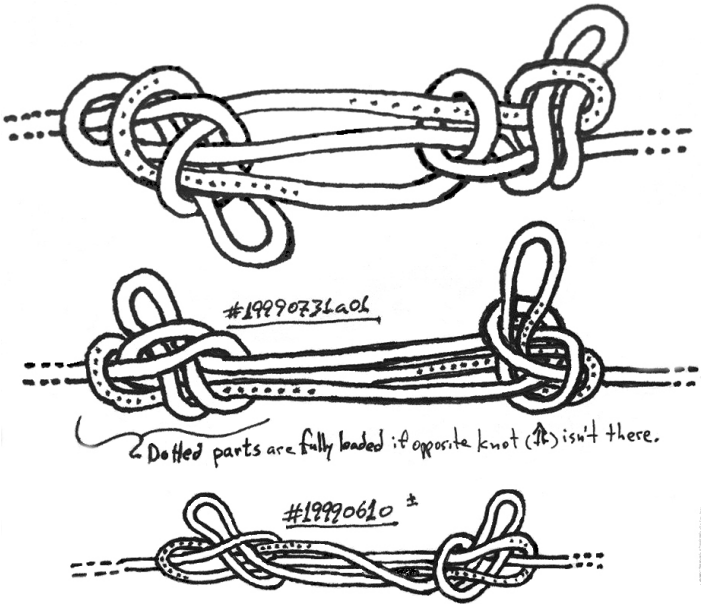
My knotting notes are posted on the IGKT Forum for comments. You will find the links there from my posts under the names of yChan or Siriuso. Formerly, beginning in July 2017, I had posted 'The Other Tying Methods of some Bends and New Bends', parts 1 to 8. Recently, three more folders were posted along with links to updates, and are the continuations of part 8. They are 'My New Bends', 'My New Knots' and 'My Other Tying Methods of Some Known Knots'. Your comments on my knots and other tying methods will be most welcome. Happy Knotting.

More Sheepshanks

by Dan Lehman

In *KM* 141, Owen Nuttall writes about the mysterious sheepshanks and again presents his ramshank, echoing his letter in *KM* 54. Firstly, his original letter gave a single knot - no 'ramshank II'-, which I'll interpret is what his recent letter describes by his instruction 'can also be tied...' which indeed yields a nice option for shanking, whether sheep or ships. Further, I note that there was one bad crossing in his finished Dolly knot. Now, Owen's assertion that there are no sheepshanks other than the ramshank that meet his criteria must surely be taken as meaning that he knows of none. But I know of several, with more to be discovered, I'm sure.

Like Owen, I've long questioned the use of sheepshanks, which are usually presented with the same old unenlightening information 'to shorten a line' as though there is a frequent need for it. (One can see plenty of images of rigging brought to a belaying pin or cleat, the in-use part in tension, and the unused part coiled beyond this belay: no sign of putting the full line into a Sheepshank so that it all lies between anchor points!) There is just a hint of actual historical use in the shortening of primarily back stays when the upper half of a mast is lowered, but given the need for this knot to hold some tension and perhaps even



continued use in supporting the mast, there's an implication that one should be able to impart tension when tying sheepshanks – but these knots don't lend themselves to that. And like Owen, I've occasionally sought improvements, five of which are presented above. The top left knot is, in my view, the most obvious sheepshank. It could result from a capsized marlinespike variation, capsizing as in a bowline-tying method (preferably in the version that results in a tail-inside format). This is a simple example, involving little or no more knotting than others.

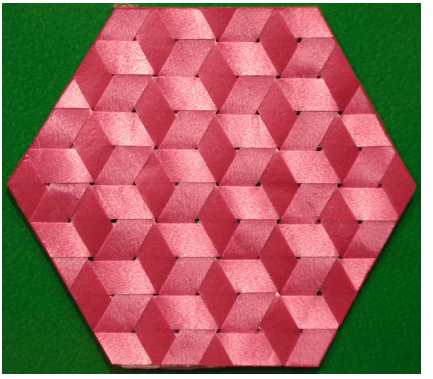
And on the supposition that the basic Sheepshank can work (with its bights left flapping in the breeze) this 'obvious' variation will work much more securely, even with the bight folded loosely as a collar over the standing part. Note that there are four parts for the standing part to turn around, perhaps removing concerns about the structure damaging the rope (as suggested by HNG Bushby). And yet of all the myriad, too-clever-by-half variations of the sheepshank I've seen, this simple improvement apparently makes no appearance in the knotting world, until now!

The ramshank can be seen as incorporating a Lapp bend into the Sheepshank structure (though with the inferior version - the standing part should cross the bight to first turn around and nip the tail when singly loaded). In the bottom-most image, I show a similar incorporation of the Sheet bend, and at the respective ends the same-side and opposite-side versions, per Sheet bend loading. Beyond this, I show four other methods of tying sheepshanks (a different knot at each end). In each case, I've dotted the parts that would be loaded by Owen's criterion of one side's knot failing.

Woven Curling Ribbon

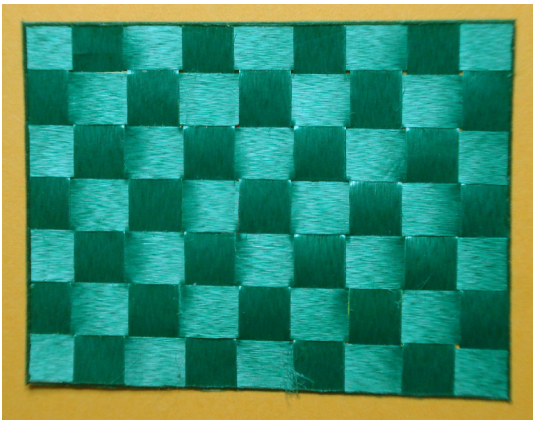
by Nicolas Wadsworth

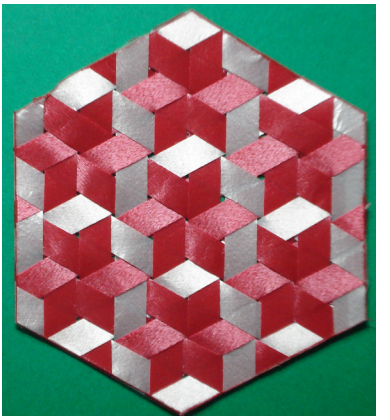
Maurice McPartlan's articles on Triaxial weaving in *KM* 140 and 141 inspired me to experiment with flat weaving using 5mm-wide 'Curling Ribbon' (or 'Balloon Curling Ribbon'), a narrow version of 'Florists' Ribbon'. The ribbon is cut from a sheet 0.1mm thick and is available in various widths. It is cheap and easily available from handicraft shops as well as florists and on e-bay.



The ribbon glints differently depending on the angle of incidence of the light which can produce interesting, apparently 3-dimensional, patterns.

The photographs show some of the effects achievable using a single-coloured ribbon (green or red) or two differently coloured ribbons (red and white).





IGKT-NA 2019 Annual Meeting

IGKT North America

invite you to the 2019 meeting

in the picturesque Finger Lakes area of New York State.

November 1st -3rd 2019

in **Geneva NY** at the north end of **Seneca Lake**

Come to enjoy the fall foliage along the long lake and the many wineries and culture of a small but lovely city.
Enjoy the company of fellow knot tyers,
learning, teaching and talking.

Reservations at the **Microtel by Wyndham**
550 Hamilton Street (rt 5 & 20) Geneva, NY 14456
Ph: 315-789-7890 ReservationCounter: 844-251-9774
email: microtelgeneva@indushg.com
Easy access from Rochester and Syracuse airports.
Meeting host – Doug Peeso dpeeso@hotmail.com

The Periodic Table in Macramé

by Jane Stewart

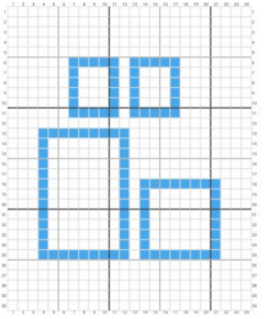
Last year my Dad, retired industrial chemist Dr Nevin Stewart, suggested a macramé version of the Periodic Table after spotting that its 150th anniversary was coming up this year.

He was inspired by my Greek alphabet cubes seeing that I could create a grid-type pattern. It took me six months to design and make my artwork, and the materials needed for the design phase were pen, paper and scissors.

For the actual piece I used metallic crochet thread. The structural thread is black and each background colour represents a group of similar elements on the table.

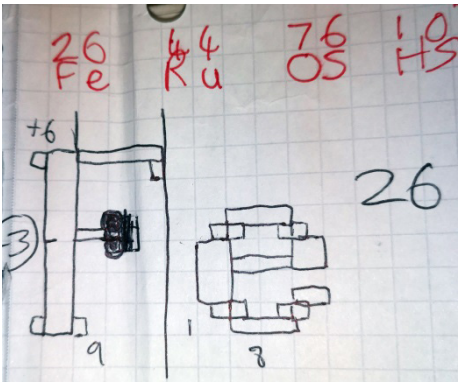
The piece is made up of around 100,000 Clove Hitches. The work does not require a frame. It is built up knot by knot keeping the tension of the knots the same all the time, whereby everything stays square.

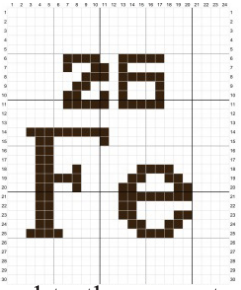
I learned to do the lettering on the periodic table from a friendship bracelet kit.[1] The work took about 350 hours to complete and the finished piece is 1m x 0.5m.



I worked out the pattern with pencil and paper on a 24 x 30-square grid (right), where the top blue spaces contained the atomic number of the element and those in the lower row, capital and lower-case letters for the element's name.

1. *Say it... Bracelet Making Kit,* NPW





In the case of the rectangle for the element iron (Fe) this means that I was working from the drawing to the left which, was later transferred to the computer. The version on the computer looked like the image (above right).

Usually I worked with my pen and paper pattern in front of me and only later copied the designs onto stitchfiddle.com for neatness' sake, when my method was published in *Make:* magazine https://makezine.com/projects/macrame-periodic-table-of-elements/

As the tying process is very repetitive, there were times when I could, to a certain extent, switch off, but had to be careful in case I made a mistake. I did make some during the work which involved tedious unpicking to correct.

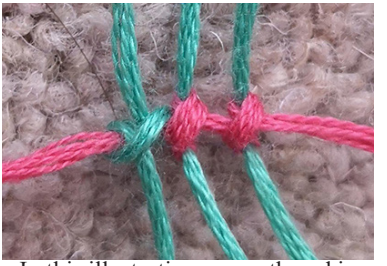
The worst example was Element 113.

A picture of the unfinished table was published in the local paper and my friend Andrew noticed that it was still called Ununtrium (Uut) when the name had officially been changed to Nihonium (Nh) in November 2016. There was much grumpiness about this as I had to cut into the work to make the alteration.

When working, I would orientate the panels so that the letters were on their sides and hold the structural (black) thread in my right hand and, with my left, tie the coloured thread around it, cleft-side down.

Left: Clove Hitch is cleft side up
Right: Clove Hitch is cleft side down

When a black knot was needed the coloured thread became the structural and the black tied round it cleft-side up.

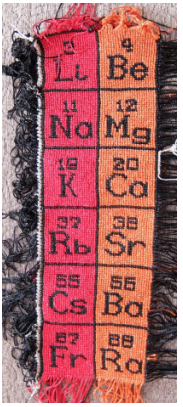


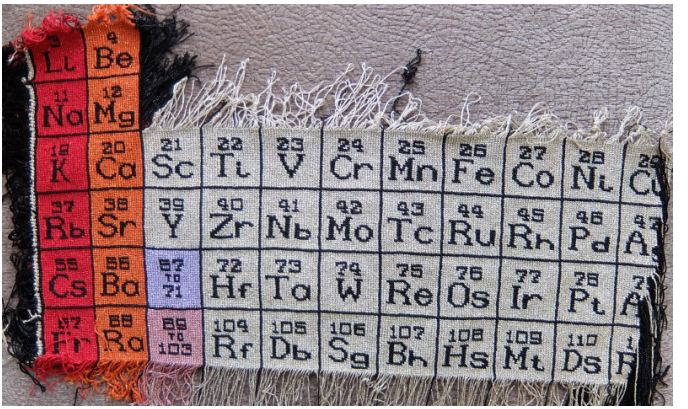
In this illustration, green thread is shown instead of black

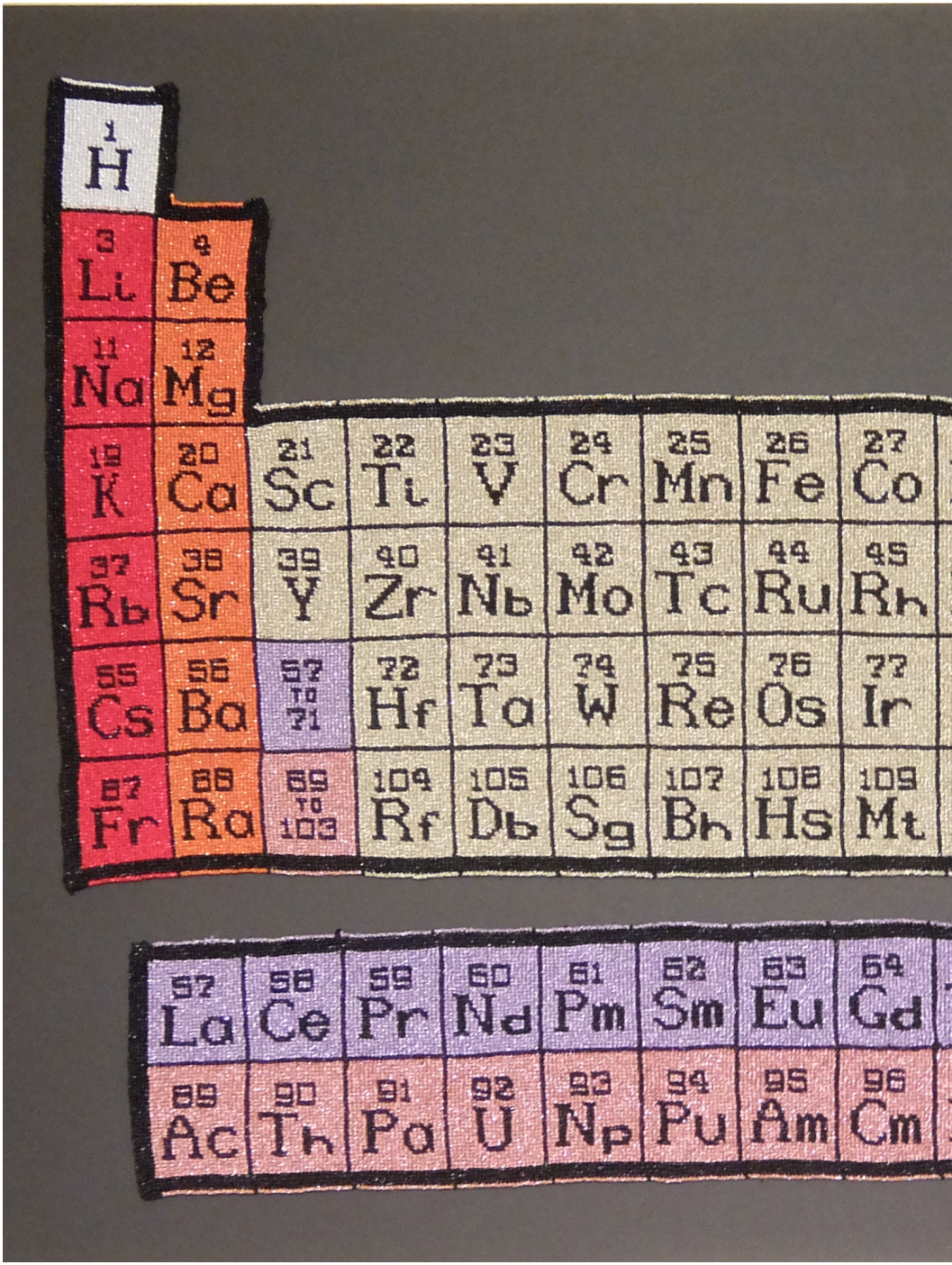
This also means that the black and the coloured knots sit at right angles. The structural thread is not seen as the thread being knotted round it, hides it.

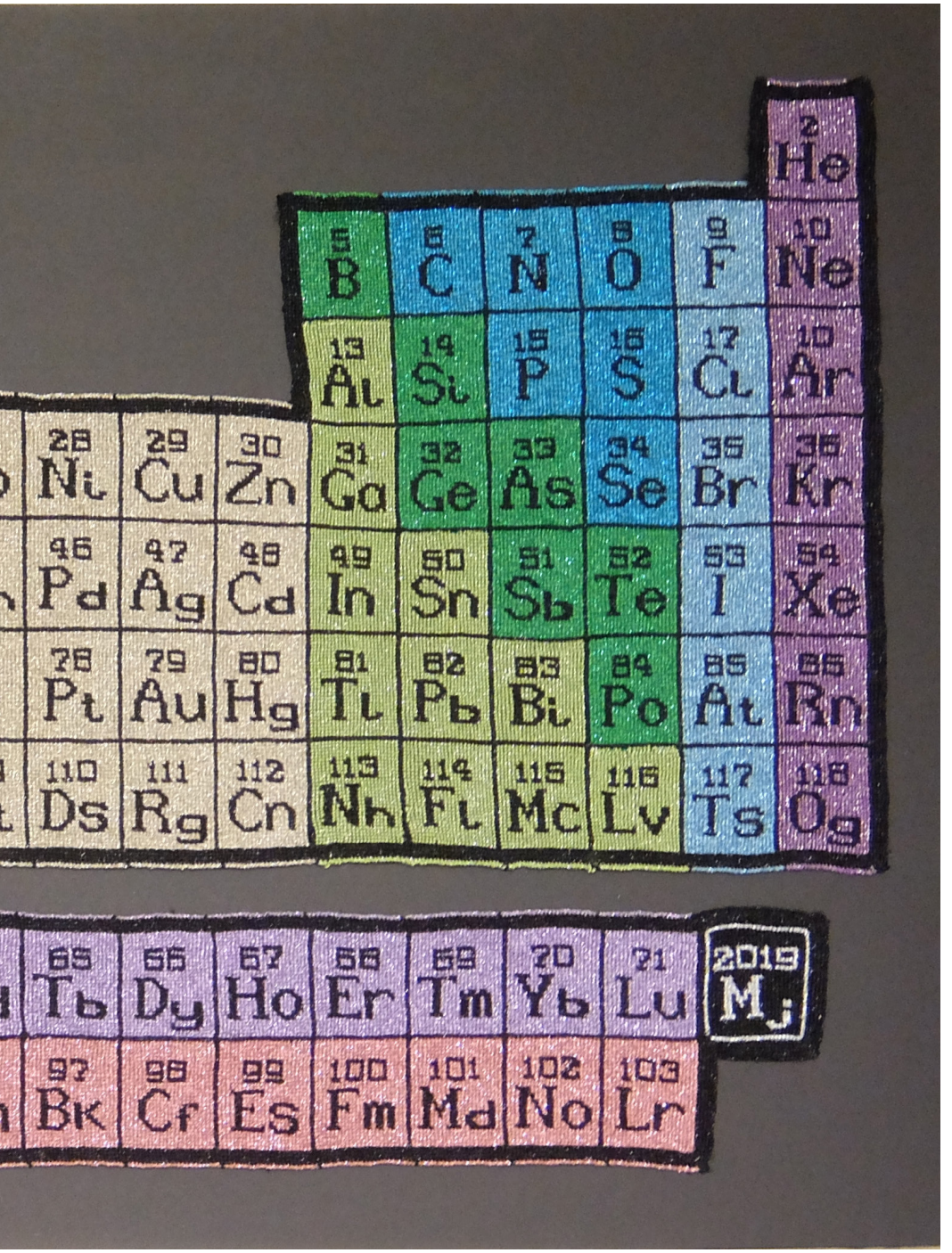
At first I carried the piece around with me until it became too big and heavy. I would work on other projects when out and about.

These images show the piece at different stages.



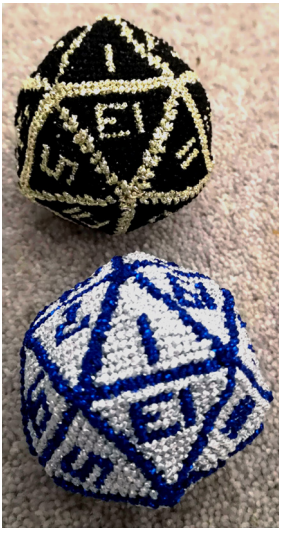



1 H
3 Li
4 Be
11 Na
12 Mg
19 K
20 Ca
21 Sc
22 Ti
23 V
24 Cr
25 Mn
26 Fe
27 Co
37 Rb
38 Sr
39 Y
40 Zr
41 Nb
42 Mo
43 Tc
44 Ru
45 Rh
55 Cs
56 Ba
57 TO 71
72 Hf
73 Ta
74 W
75 Re
76 Os
77 Ir
87 Fr
88 Ra
89 TO 103
104 Rf
105 Db
106 Sg
107 Bh
108 Hs
109 Mt
57 La
58 Ce
59 Pr
60 Nd
61 Pm
62 Sm
63 Eu
64 Gd
89 Ac
90 Th
91 Pa
92 U
93 Np
94 Pu
95 Am
96 Cm


2 He
5 B
6 C
7 N
8 O
9 F
10 Ne
13 Al
14 Si
15 P
16 S
17 Cl
18 Ar
28 Ni
29 Cu
30 Zn
31 Ga
32 Ge
33 As
34 Se
35 Br
36 Kr
46 Pd
47 Ag
48 Cd
49 In
50 Sn
51 Sb
52 Te
53 I
54 Xe
78 Pt
79 Au
80 Hg
81 Tl
82 Pb
83 Bi
84 Po
85 At
86 Rn
110 Ds
111 Rg
112 Cn
113 Nh
114 Fl
115 Mc
116 Lv
117 Ts
118 Og
65 Tb
66 Dy
67 Ho
68 Er
69 Tm
70 Yb
71 Lu
2019
Mj
97 Bk
98 Cf
99 Es
100 Fm
101 Md
102 No
103 Lr

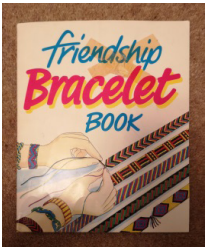
The piece is now on tour for the International Year of the Periodic Table. It started its journey at my alma mater, Surrey University, then went to Paris for the IYPT launch event. It is now on a grand tour of various prestigious venues including the Royal Society Summer Science Show. The Royal Society of Chemistry is part sponsoring its travels.

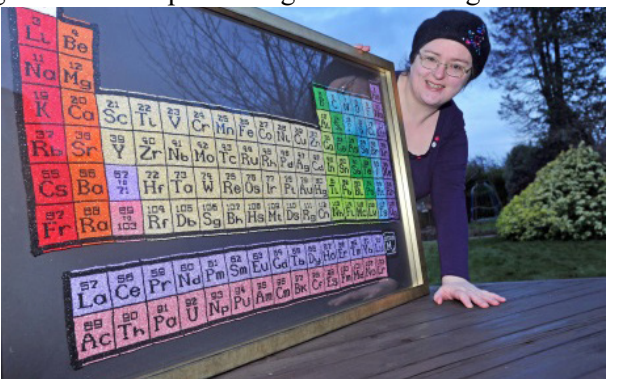
A few examples of Jane's other work in macramé



Jane's Knotting Biography

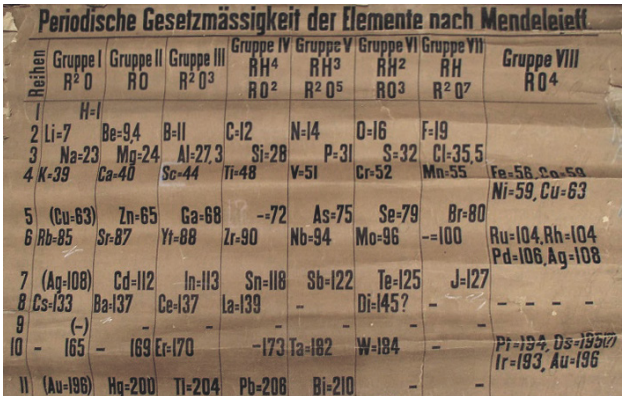
I learned macramé through a friendship braiding book I was given at 11 years old, the *Friendship Bracelet Book,* Henderson Publishing 1994





A lot of people mistake macramé for embroidery at which point I explain that it's made of knots. I'm creating the fabric as I go, not simply decorating a pre-existing piece of fabric. Over the years I have come back to macramé from time to time and in the last few years have started experimenting beyond the original method I learned. I've made huge throw rugs working with multiple threads of wool. I've gone really tiny with sewing thread. I've gone 3D by turning extra corners in the work, and made 3D toys, keyrings, shoe and bag straps. The Greek alphabet cubes were made in a flat cross-pattern of six joined squares then tied up the sides and top. (The cube-making method is in my *Make:* magazine article: https://makezine.com/projects/macrame-a-mario-bros-play-block) the cubes are filled with sofa stuffing. I would love to be commissioned to make something else and even become established as a macramé artist.

The Periodic Table of the Elements


Periodische Gesetzmässigkeit der Elemente nach Mendeleieff.
Reihen
Gruppe I R² O
Gruppe II RO
Gruppe III R² O³
Gruppe IV RH⁴ RO²
Gruppe V RH³ R² O⁵
Gruppe VI RH² RO³
Gruppe VII RH R² O⁷
Gruppe VIII RO⁴
H=1
Li=7 Be=9,4 B=11 C=12 N=14 O=16 F=19
Na=23 Mg=24 Al=27,3 Si=28 P=31 S=32 Cl=35,5
K=39 Ca=40 Sc=44 Ti=48 V=51 Cr=52 Mn=55 Fe=56, Co=59
Ni=59, Cu=63
(Cu=63) Zn=65 Ga=68 --=72 As=75 Se=79 Br=80
Rb=85 Sr=87 Yt=88 Zr=90 Nb=94 Mo=96 --=100 Ru=104, Rh=104
Pd=106, Ag=108
(Ag=108) Cd=112 In=113 Sn=118 Sb=122 Te=125 J=127
Cs=133 Ba=137 Ce=137 La=139 Di=145? - - - - -
(-) - - - - - -
- 165 - 169 Er=170 -173 Ta=182 W=184 - -
Pt=194, Os=195?
Ir=193, Au=196
(Au=196) Hg=200 Tl=204 Pb=206 Bi=210 - -

This is a picture of the earliest known wallchart of the Periodic Table.

The Table we still use was originally published by the 19th century Russian chemist, Dmitri Mendeléev from observations of the properties of the elements. He predicted the influence of several elements unknown at the time but since discovered. In the 20th century it was realised that the Table's layout was related to the electronic structure of the atoms of each element. Following the advent of atomic fission in the late 1930s, new, radioactive elements were discovered, and the development of atomic weapons produced several new ones in the 1940s and early 1950s. All these, and the inert gases, unknown in Mendeléev's day, fitted into predictable slots in his Table.

I worked in the same department as one of the few people alive who discovered a new element. In the early 1950s, analysis by a graduate Greg Choppin, led to the identification of a few atoms of element 101, which was called Mendelevium after the Table's designer. At http://pubs.acs.org/cen/80th/mendelevium.html is Greg's article in 2003 about No 101. At http://pubs.acs.org/cen/80th/mendelevium.html is a video of my interview with him in 2008. **Colin Byfleet**

Entomological Knot Tying - Part 1

by Dr John W and Peggy Guyton

We have enjoyed sharing knot tying at festivals, field days, workshops and the Bug and Plant Camps that we run at Mississippi State University. And since we had no examples of how others setup and manage knotting booths at festivals, we made up our own version. Nor did we have any exhibits when we were first invited to share our hobby, so we had to come up with something. The first picture is a photo of our first entomological knot board which is now in the Director's office of the Mississippi State University Insect Museum.

We started by taking a few knot boards, patterns, supplies and the *Ashley Book of Knots*. It did not take long to discover that few people could tie a knot from Ashley's diagrams, so, we redrew them on our computer with enlarged lines, and provided foam board and quilting pins for new knot tyers, and it worked! Along the way we created 'touchy feely' knots that were large enough to pick up and handle, a knotted hat band for my straw hat and a necklace for Peggy, and a wider variety of knot boards.

As an Extension Entomologist I was drawn to Ashley's insect knots. Developing 'entomological knots' involves a little creativity, and the decision to utilize at least one defining characteristic of the insect being tied sometimes requires a little imagination for tyer and viewer!

Ants, for example, have angled antenna, and flies have only two wings. Insects have three body parts (head, thorax and abdomen), six legs and characteristic shapes. They have different life stages: egg, larva, pupa or cocoon and adult all of which can be illustrated with knots.

The second picture features knots representing the stages of a moth's lifecycle. As the most abundant animals on the planet, arthropods, have even more differences on which to draw.

We used knots to illustrate the life cycle of a moth as a thank-you plaque designed for a moth authority who delivered a keynote address at a conference. We typically do not put legs on our insect knots. Entomologists often leave the legs folded underneath insects when mounting them in collections. Other arthropods have characteristics including legs which are useful to illustrate, such as grasshoppers' jumping legs, spiders that have two body parts and eight legs; millipedes' long cylindrical bodies with two pairs of legs on each of up to 100 segments, and centipede's flat bodies with one pair of legs on each flattened segment, up to 177 pairs. As a fly fisher and fly tyer, I considered writing this around the use of insects in fly tying.

But my greatest expertise is with larger decorative knots, not intended for fish! There are beautiful collections of flies for fishing, and I have a couple on my office walls, but I have been unable to find a collection showing features of different insect orders. There is, however, an enjoyable review of the history of fly tying by Michael Parrella in the *American Entomologist*, Spring 2013 titled "A History of the Entomology of Fly Fishing" (available online).

Using established knots is logical and useful in representing insects. Our first insect knot was Ashley's Dragonfly (*ABOK* #2467) which is instantly recognizable. In our collections we use Ashley's Butterfly (*ABOK* #2469) and Moth (*ABOK* #2471) and invert his Owl Knot (*ABOK* #2472) to denote another Lepidopteran (butterflies and moths). The masthead knot (*ABOK* #2295) has two 'wings' and makes a nice fly. The flies that annoy most people have only two wings, the hind pair being replaced by small knobs like miniature drumsticks. A masthead knot (*ABOK* #2296) with a single twist gives it a beautiful abdomen that could be another fly or even a bee (though bees actually have four wings)! The caterpillar knot (*ABOK* #2468) was easy and we make one with a smaller body and cut the loops to make an ant with six legs. Ashley's #2462, with the loops pulled snug, make a fine bug. *ABOK* #2301 and #2303 make good insects and #2314 is a bumblebee, though with only two wings.

Insects can represent a huge source of inspiration for tying knots. There are over 1,000,000 species of insect described, that's more than all the world's species of plants and animals together, and most authorities agree there are likely to be

many more yet undescribed. So, when you think about it, if your knot looks like a bug, it probably resembles one, whether you have seen it or knot! I had a frayed piece of cordage that I tied to a hook that successfully fooled the fish!

Unfortunately, insects species are under threat and that is not a good thing for humans or the earth. I have found that popularizing knots that resemble insects provides a platform for building awareness of the great importance of insects to life on earth, including our own.

We have tied some great bugs found throughout Graumont and Hensel's *Encyclopedia of Knots and Fancy Rope Work* including insects and other arthropods, a dragonfly, a chrysalis, caterpillars a ladybug and a horse fly. And there are other places we find bugs. We received a potted plant in a woven basket with a design resembling a bug that was responsible for us keeping the basket after the plant died. We call that one a trashcan bug!

A Few Entomological Knot-Tying Tips

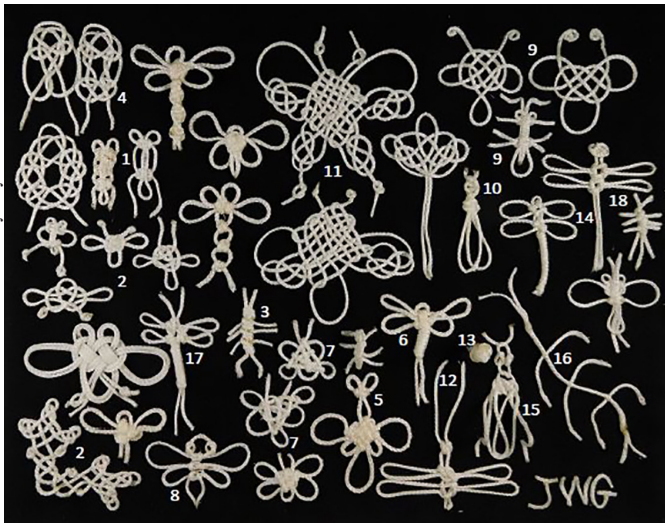
I prefer using braided nylon for entomological knots and keep a variety of diameters on hand. I have co-opted a small collection of sewing needles used in leather work into which I can thread a piece of nylon.

With these needles I can easily push a piece of rope through another, forming a cross or loop. I use craft foamboard to pin my work to. I also use a propane soldering iron to cut the nylon, and occasionally to "weld" pieces of nylon together (initials in collection).

(Editors' Note:

A fuller version of this Part 1 is available on the website, as well as Part 2, which gives an account and explanation of the various orders of insects with labelled examples on the knot board (right).

Let us know if you would also like to see it in print in September's issue.)



2019 Spring Meeting and AGM at Nothe Fort, Weymouth, England

Weymouth was the excellent choice by the Dorset Branch's Peter Goldstone for our symposium and AGM in May. The venue was the Nothe Fort, with magnificent views over the bay and Dorset's Jurassic coast in beautiful weather. It was built by the Victorians over 12 years, and has been restored for the education and enjoyment of visitors (and IGKT) as a WWII museum. There have been numerous ghostly reports over the years of a 'Whistling Gunner', though the stentorian tones of David Pearson running the raffle were quite scary enough for me! The labyrinth of underground passages have sections only visited by staff in pairs. Quite what use a companion would be when confronted by an apparition is beyond me, other than to provide a bit of competition in the race for the exit. However, it was a comfort to know that in the event of a nuclear strike, IGKT's business would have been completed uneventfully, as we were housed in the Nuclear Bunker!

The event was well attended, with members from as far afield as Canada, USA, Japan, Norway and Finland. The Ship Inn, which overlooks the harbour, was the venue for the Knot Tyers Supper, when Bob Dollar presented the President's Cup to a very popular and worthy winner Joe Bennett, all the way from Glasgow in sunny Scotland. GT

Joe Bennett receives President's Cup from President Bob Dollar

Two of our Founder Members

Photo: Peter Goldstone

A larger version of this and other images from Weymouth are available on the website

SPRING MEETING WEYMOUTH 2019

Underground in the Nothe Fort Weymouth

Knot So Trivial

By Chia Chang Dawson

The trivial case of the pan chang knot (*ABOK* #811) may be tied two ways. Ashley has called it the simplest form of a Chinese butterfly knot, but it does have its own Chinese name. In the translation of Lydia Chan's first book this was given as the Cloverleaf knot, but, as there is a cloverleaf/trefoil knot in the canon, I have opted for the more botanical name of Sorrel (*Oxalis*). The literal translation of the name is 'sour-herb knot': sorrel has a sharp taste.

Whatever we call it, the knot is easily capsized if the arcs that outline the leaflets (the arc-bights, as distinct from the interwoven bights which lock in the centre) are long enough, or if the cord is slippery. A discreet stitch strategically placed can solve this problem, as can seizings in bands of contrasting colour that turn the interwoven bights into eyes. Many decorative motifs can be built up using the oxalis knot as the unit, and some have their own names. Here are some I learned in my childhood.

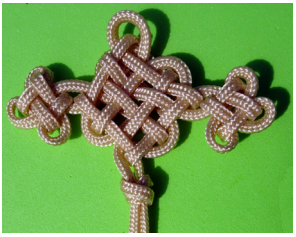
The ideogram for 'well' is # which represents the scaffolding round the water-hole for the ropes when the pails are lowered into the water. Three oxalis knots tied lying across the line of the cords, and with the central knot carrying the cords, is called the Three-Wells knot. The arc-bights are drawn close, and the pairs of cords are seized above and below the knot if it is to stand alone.

When the oxalis knots lie along the length of the cord, the configuration is called the Phoenix Tail, and when the knotted cord wriggles round corners (not necessarily to a set pattern) we have a Dragon's Whisker.

This is also an excellent knot-sequence for tying Greek key patterns, and, for those familiar with the traditional Chinese characters for celebrations, for tying motifs such as 'long life' and 'happiness'. The units linking cornerwise give a lighter effect than the more stable, but heavier, blocks when the units sit side by side.

Stacking rows of linear units will give blocks. The motif made when two rows of Three-Wells knots are stacked is the Flower-Drum (right). The adjacent arc-bights that are interlocked may be quite large so as to give a deep drum, or left small like the little decorated drums used by street-performers and in some folk dances.

ABOK #2464 (left) shows the effect of stacking rows of different lengths, and Ashley also gives a method for designing one's own variations. The diamond configuration of *ABOK* #2464 may be extended to give diagonals of 5, 7, 9 or more units if the string is long enough.



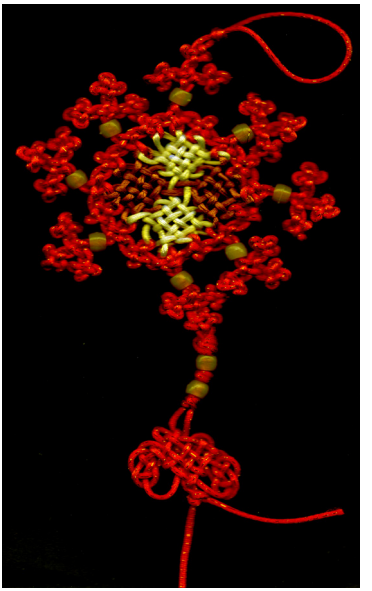
Sometimes the oxalis knot is used on its own to embellish a knot of longevity. The 2x2 pan chang square with an oxalis knot at the two corners of the horizontal is the Mother Hen with Two Chickens. The Korean name is the Chick knot, suggesting that this knot must have travelled along the trade routes between Korea and China.

One popular knot is the Ruyi (also given as Ju-i). The phrase means 'may all go as you would wish'. The story goes that an emperor visited a Taoist temple where the monks gave him a simple meal gathered from the forest. One of the ingredients was a mildly hallucinogenic bracket fungus.

During his post-prandial nap, the emperor had wonderful dreams in which all his desires were fulfilled, and afterwards he had a sceptre carved from white jade with the stylized bracket fungus at the head.

This set a fashion for miniature sceptre-heads as ornaments, and the 'ruyi knot' with its representation of the frilly fungus edge, was the version used by those who could not afford carved gems.

'May your wishes come true' is a safe message; though I can't help feeling there should also be a warning to think twice before wishing, for most occasions!



The oxalis knot is often used as a unit in giving importance to another knot, particularly because it is easy to tie these round a bamboo or wire framework. The Night Light with its glow-in-the-dark beads was tied for a child suffering from nightmares or possibly overeating near bedtime! In this case, the oxalis knot is an obvious choice because the sorrel plant folds its leaflets as daylight fades and is sometimes described as the plant-that-goes-to-sleep-at-night.

The central square is built up from four 2x2 pan chang knots with adjacent edge-bights interlinked while the frame consists of 'ruyi' and 'oxalis' knots used in alternation. There was no wire as the cord was stiff enough to stand alone. Traditionally, the knots of longevity at the centre would have been in four different colours with the frame in a fifth.

The beads too would have been 3x4 or 3x5 Turks Head knots doubled (known in Chinese as Turban knots). The Ruyi knots seem particularly appropriate for a child wishing to be freed from nightmares, and 'eight' is homophonic with 'to expand' or 'to prosper', so is always a statement of blessing or well-wishing.

Hang on a minute

By Adam Masters

Every August or September The Great Dorset Steam Fair takes place near Blandford Forum, Dorset, UK. It holds the largest gathering of steam and vintage machinery in the world. In 2018 there were 522 full-sized engines. Not the place, you'd think, to spot ropework and knots because the engines get so hot. So, when I came across this I thought I needed to write to *Knotting Matters*. I asked the purpose of the ropework, and agreed with the guess that it was to assist the firemen to climb on to the engine and hold on while traveling to the site of the fire.

I was surprised to see how white the rope was, then I remembered Ken Nelson's talk at the Loughborough AGM on canal narrowboats and how they also would keep their decorative ropework clean.

The Shand Mason Steam Fire Engine named 'St George' was built by the Watford brewery in 1876 to serve the brewery and the local area for the next 37 years.
In 1930, Sedgwick bought the second-hand steam engine from Watford Council and 'St George' went to Shand Mason for a rebuild.
In 1979, it was found in a derelict condition, and was restored by pupils at Norton Secondary School in Letchworth, Hertfordshire. It was taken to its first stream rally in 1983.

IGKT AUTUMN MEETING

Friday 4th – Sunday 6th October 2019

IGKT Germany invite you to the **Vegersacker Geschichtenhaus,**
Zum Alten Speicher 5A, 28759 Bremen, Germany
a small museum in the north of Bremen, open daily 11.00-1700 hrs
https://vegesacker-geschichtenhaus.de/

Accommodation: Cabins may be booked on the *Schulschiff Deutschland* located directly opposite the museum. Unfortunately, their homepage is only available in German: https://schulschiff-deutschland.de/

Find prices at https://tinyurl.com/y46vqdje

Double cabin (including breakfast): 51€/70€,

Single cabin (including breakfast): 39€/48.50€

Parking: There is parking near the museum.

Activities: 3rd Oct is a holiday in Germany, so the local members will be there on the Thursday. *Please join us!*

The museum expects us to offer activities for children on Thursday & Friday! Let us know if you have something to offer or bring it with you. We hope to offer guided tours of *Schulschiff Deutschland* and *Gleistein* (to be confirmed). There will be a Knot Tyers' Supper on Saturday evening.

Please register at https://www.knotengilde.de/index.php/home/hgm2019

Captain George Hart Bursary

Thanks to the generosity of Captain George Hart, the IGKT has been able to set up a fund with the intention of helping and encouraging members, especially younger members, to engage in an 'extraordinary' activity which involves knotting and the Guild. The fund will be used to provide bursaries, the Captain George Hart Bursaries, each up to a value of £500, for as long as the fund allows.

It is anticipated that each bursary will be used to assist a member to cover part or all of the cost of an activity which would otherwise be beyond their means. Such activities may include attendance at a Guild event involving travel over a considerable distance in their own or another country.

Applicants must have been paid-up members of IGKT for at least two years prior to their application for the bursary.

Application can be made at any time for an activity which will take place up to two years beyond the date of application and must be made on the application form and in the format prescribed. The Secretary to the Trustees will acknowledge receipt of all submissions, and applicants will be notified of the result of their application within six weeks of its receipt. The names of successful applicants will be published in *Knotting Matters* (except those aged under 18, for legal reasons).

Please apply by e-mail to secretary@igkt.net for the application form and instructions. If you are unable to use e-mail, please apply in writing, giving your full name and postal address, to IGKT, Oaken Cleave, Cobbaton, Umberleigh EX37 9SG UK

Payment of the Bursary will usually be made in advance of the proposed date of the activity. Successful applicants will be responsible for making all their own arrangements for travel, accommodation etc.

A strict condition precedent to the acceptance of the award of a bursary, will be that, within three months of completion of the activity, the applicant will provide the Trustees with evidence of their expenditure, as well as a report of the activity, preferably accompanied by relevant photographs, to be published in *Knotting Matters*.

By order of the Trustees 15th May 2019

NB The fund, to be administered by the IGKT Treasurer, will be held in an account separate from other IGKT accounts. It will not be subject to the same rules as those enshrined in the Guild's Constitution, but will be reported in a brief appendix to the Annual Report and Accounts. If no applications are received over a three-year period, the Trustees reserve the right to reassign the funds to a different purpose.

KNOT ART

By Simon Kershaw

Driving through Tortosa in Catalonia last month on business, this interesting knot sculpture caught my eye. My Spanish colleagues told me that these knotted pipes symbolise resistance to plans for their supply of water for irrigation, which comes from rivers, being diverted for use away from the local area.

Further investigation on the web yields: **Roundabout of the knots (Tortosa)**

This roundabout on the C-21, at the entrance to the town of Tortosa in Tarragona, houses the monument to the *Platform in Defence of the Ebro,* the work of Anna Hernández and Holger August.

Constructed in 2007, it consists of sculptures of knots in aluminium, 1.5-6.0m high. They represent the different municipalities of the Ebro Lands, arranged on a scale map on the roundabout according to their real location, their height being proportional to their number of inhabitants.

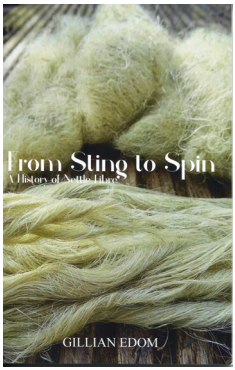
The *Platform in Defence of the Ebro* was created in Tortosa on September 15, 2000 against the policy of transfers planned by the then Government, because of the consequences it could have had for the Delta del Ebro. The law was amended on June 22, 2005. More images can be found at https://tinyurl.com/y3juluoz

BOOK REVIEWS

From Sting to Spin, a history of nettle fibre

by Gillian Edom, Urtica Books, 2nd revised edition, 2019. ISBN 978 0956 569 319

Paperback, 99 pages with illustrations.



The humble nettle as a source of fibre has been overlooked for many years, but properly prepared it can rival flax, hemp or cotton. It would appear that nettle fibre was used to make both coarse materials and cordage as well as very fine linen-type cloth.

There are many plants in the family Urticaceae to be found world-wide. The main focus of this book is the stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), but the other plants are not ignored. This edition, expanded by almost a third on the first, covers, amongst other areas, the nettle in archaeology, the use of nettle fibre in indigenous communities around the world, nettle fibre in Japan, early written records, the attempt to commercialise nettle fibre and the future of nettle fibre, as well as a very brief guide to extracting the fibre for oneself.

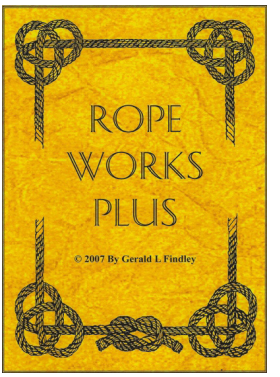
What I like about this book is the fact that the author has studied a wide range of European sources and gives full references for all of them. Gillian Edom has found much worthwhile evidence that, to my mind, suggests that nettle fibre was probably more widely used than we realise, but has never (so far), been able to be exploited on an industrial scale. Because of this, it has been eclipsed by hemp and flax. For those interested in the source of fibres used in cordage, this could be a serious addition to their library, giving a fascinating glimpse into a fibre that has almost been ignored.

Des Pawson

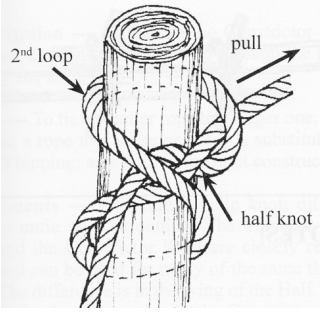
Rope Works Plus

Gerald L. Findley, Booksurge Llc, 2007, 230pp. ISBN 978-1-41-966656-8

I was initially attracted to this book by the extent and quality of its illustrations which are very much in the style of IGKT ex-president, Stuart Grainger. The author divides an extensive listing into sections of Knots and Hitches, Splices, Lashings and Netting, and finishes with a useful description of two rope-making machines and other useful tools for ropework.



The first few entries describe ways in which rope may be made ready for use – cutting and fusing (melting), whipping, serving etc and then the knots proper begin – about 40 knots and hitches, 6 splices and 16 lashings. Instructions for each knot are given in a sequence of drawings and make the process of tying of each knot very clear. There is also text giving more details about each entry which includes a narrative to go with each step of the illustrations – an unusual but both interesting and useful addition.



I would have found this book, with its manageable number of examples of knots, very useful as a beginner, and it also has a way of making one look differently at familiar knots. The purist might carp at the lack of distinction between bends and knots but it doesn't detract from an otherwise excellent addition to any knotting library. Colin Byfleet

World Knot Tying Day – 18th December

On 18th of December every year, individuals and groups around the world – at home, work or play - will be asked to take time to be photographed while tying a knot (any knot, basic or sensational, knots that do stuff or that just look good) and share the pictures over a media platform linked to #WorldKnotTyingDay.

Why December 18th? Because the major figure of 20th century knotting, and author of *The Ashley Book of Knots* (1944), was born (1881) and also died (1947) on that date. This makes it a very fitting day to celebrate knot tying.

How to be involved? Last year, many groups organised a knot-teaching session on the day.

1 Local branches worldwide can encourage and publicise all such events in their own locality
2 Individual members can encourage friends, neighbours and colleagues (not only IGKT) to share their knotting photos and selfies on social media
3 The event will be promoted in all the countries where we have members.

If you can help in publicising the day or organising an event in your area, please let the Executive Committee Secretary know what you plan to do at execsec@igkt.net

Suggestions for publicity material will be available in *Knotting Matters* later in the year.

OBITUARIES

Jimmy Ray Williams

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Jimmy Ray Williams. Jimmy was born in Rockford, the County seat of Coosa County, Alabama, on February 4, 1945. He was Board member, Secretary and Treasurer of the Pacific Americas Branch (PAB). Jimmy entered hospital on New Year's Day 2019 with heart failure and complications from pneumonia, was induced into a coma two weeks later, and passed away peacefully on January 25, in Torrance, Los Angeles County, California.

"***Did I ever tell you about ...?***"

That was the start of so many conversations I had with Jimmy. He was constantly telling stories, some of them true (although he couldn't tell me which ones, or else he "woulda had to kill"... me). He had stories of his time spent in a variety of combat areas – never in enough detail to pin down, but always interesting and sometimes near-the-knuckle. Jimmy reputedly lived in a jail for a short time in his chequered life – his family took care of an old jailhouse and he lived there with them; none of the family was actually incarcerated, but it made for an interesting statement about his past life!

He was a very able fisherman, who caught rainbow trout in the small brooks and streams of Piru Creek, near Castaic, California, using flies he tied himself. He fitted his familiar red Jeep with over-door handles from black paracord, in the form of Solomon's Bar grips. He described them as 'Oh! Sh**' handles, used to steady oneself when taking a bumpy ride. He regularly appeared at PAB events in California, teaching people how to tie his crosses, the bracelets and Turks Head closures he added to so many canes, pens, fids and other objects, always cheerfully and forever giving credit to others for his own fine workmanship.

Jimmy served in the United States Army as an Information Technology Specialist at a time when IT was in its infancy, creating and maintaining computer technology up-to-date.

He has been a mainstay of our knot-tying group, the PAB, for well over a decade. He has contributed his own knots and his own knotting, teaching and IT expertise in getting our website active, keeping member dues lists with addresses, and chasing up folks who needed it.

As our Secretary and Treasurer, he has been the backbone of the group of nearly one hundred knot-tyers from all over the world. To say that we shall miss him, as we all here in California miss him, would be a huge understatement. I cannot imagine his not being there to attract and entertain visitors to our demonstration booth at the annual Tallships Festivals, and at Cabrillo Aquarium, and in Boy Scout and Girl Scout meetings, and in classrooms or wherever we asked him to be.

Jimmy and I ran a series of knot-tying classes to try to get young people interested in the art of knot-tying as so much of my interaction with him has been. He was always interested to hear what others had to say. He genuinely liked helping people understand the uses of knots, and he was committed to understanding more about them himself. He cared for other folks, sometimes to the detriment of his own health, although he took care not to be a burden on others. He told me lots of stories about the goings-on in his neighborhood, about his trips to the desert with his good friend OG, about Codie, his wife, and about the activities and well-being of his grandson, Jax.

We all have stories about how Jimmy helped us, whether it was the offer of a bottle of water, a beer or a snack bar from his own supply, or his offers to help with making a community event happen, as he did at his local library, or simply giving us a ride in his own beloved Jeep, or of giving the nurses at the hospital his lovingly made one-cord crosses, in gratitude for their care. In the end it was Jimmy who helped us become better at recognizing need in others – for help, for understanding, for sustenance, and even for a dressing-down.

In remembering Jimmy, I am reminded of the oft-quoted saying, 'The brave may not live forever, but the cautious do not live at all'. Jimmy was brave, he lived life to the full, one of life's givers and a friend to all. May he rest in peace, his work is done.

Lindsey Philpott

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

If you have recently changed any of your contact details (post or e-mail), please send the updated information by e-mail to: membership@igkt.net
or by mail to: IGKT Membership Secretary,
15 Spey Close, Thornbury, Bristol, BS35 2NR, UK

THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO ENSURE YOUR DETAILS ARE CHANGED

News from the Branches

IGKT NETHERLANDS

On 6th April 2019, we held the second meeting in our new location,

Binnenvaart Museum, Dordrecht

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Binnenvaartmuseum

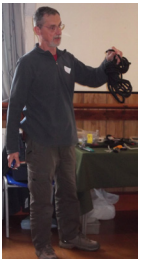
We now meet on the first Saturday of the month. The museum is easily reached by public transport, the bus stops just a few minutes away. It is open from about 10.00am. We usually leave in mid-afternoon as most of us have long distances to travel, but the museum stays open till late afternoon.

At this meeting, Dick Hollander gave a bell-rope to our new hosts. It is the kind known locally (Den Helder, the Netherlands) as 'kroontje' (little crown). The photo shows, left to right, Jan Roelofs, Dick Hollander, a member of the museum staff and Frits Ottens.

For any further information, please contact Frits Ottens, who will be able to confirm the specific dates the knot tyers will be meeting.

Willeke van der Ham

YORKSHIRE BRANCH



Our March meeting had a good attendance of 23 members. Colin Grundy from Coventry gave the excellent opening talk - 'Finishing Rope Ends', which included expected and unexpected solutions, including whippings, splices and others from his extensive repertoire.

Ben Ladley of the Northwest Branch had made a beautiful wooden plaque for the Yorkshire Branch which he presented to David Pearson.

The day ended as usual with a very tasty afternoon tea. The subject for the November 17th meeting will be 'Coverings used by Knotters', open to many interpretations.

David and Sheila Pearson

BRANCHES

Australia

Contact: Robert Underhill
rvumoose@icloud.com

Tel:+61 488 777 785
34 Dawson Place, Donnybrook,
WA 6239 Australia

Belgium

Contact: Ronny Wouters
rcwouters@scarlet.be
Tel: +32(0)3 658 7937
Venue: Akkerlaan 24, 2900 Schoten, België

Canada

Southern Ontario Knot Tyers
http://knotcanada.webs.com/
Contact: John Staley
southern.ontario.knotyers@gmail.com
Tel: +1(1) 905 389 2509
Venue: Hamilton, Ontario

France

www.igkt.fr
Contact: Jean-Pierre Durand
durand0547@orange.fr
Tel: +33(0)6 64 00 66 91

Germany

http://www.knotengilde.de/
Contact: Yuval Dvoran
info@knotengilde.de

Internationale Gilde der
Knotenmacher Deutsche Sektion e.V.
c/o Matthias Böving
Kappenstrasse 22
45473 Mülheim/Ruhr

Netherlands

Contact: Frits Ottens
frits.efina@telfort.nl
Tel: +31 (0) 587 850 011
Venue: Binnenvaart Museum, Dordrecht.

New Zealand

All enquries about this branch: contact the Guild's Web Administrator.

United Kingdom

Dorset - UK

Contact: Peter Goldstone
goldstonepg@aol.com
Tel: +44 (0)1725 516 258 or
Mobile: +44 (0)7702 733005
Venue: The Ship Inn, Custom House Quay, Weymouth DT4 8BE

East Anglian - UK

Contact: Stuart Weston
pugwash1941@gmail.com
Tel: +44 (0)1449 674 327 or
+44 (0)7801 239 731
Venue: Windmill Room, Abbots Hall Primary School, Danescourt Ave, Stowmarket, Suffolk

Midlands - UK

Contact: Bruce Turley
bruce@btknots.co.uk
Tel: +44 (0)1214 534 124
Venue: The Old Swan Inn,
(Ma Pardoes), 89 Halesowen Road,
Netherton, Dudley, DY2 9PY

North West England - UK

Contact: Ian Rogers
iansrogers@aol.com
Tel: +44 (0)1606 590 729
Venue: Red Lion, 1 Wharton Rd, Winsford, Chester CW7 3AA and Tattenhall Marina, Newton Lane, Tattenhall, Chester CH3 9NE

Solent - UK

http://igkt-solent.co.uk
Contact: Chris Jenkins
igktchris@btinternet.com
Tel: +44 (0)2392 601 779
Venue: Fareham Sailing and Motor Boat Club, Lower Quay, Fareham, Hampshire PO16 0RA

Surrey - UK

www.surreyknots.org.uk
Contact: Tony Shellard
secretary@surreyknots.org.uk
Tel: +44(0)1483 502 156
Venue: Guildford District Scout Centre, Nightingale Road, Guildford, GU1 1ER

West Country Knotters - UK

Contact: Richard Hopkins
richardhopkins907@gmail.com
Tel: +44 (0)1179 867 146
Venue: The Benjamin Perry Boathouse, Phoenix Wharf, Lower Guinea Street, Bristol BS1 6TJ

Yorkshire - UK

Contact: David Pearson
wayzegoose_uk@yahoo.co.uk
Tel: +44 (0)113 257 2689
Venue: Pudsey Scout Headquarters, The Lanes, Pudsey, LS28 7AS

United States of America

Alaskan Branch - USA

Contact: Charles Rigden
charles@rigdencpa.com
Tel: +(1) 1 928 231 2775
Venue: Anchorage Senior Center, 1300 East 19th Avenue, AK 99501

North American Branch - Knot in the Middle - USA

www.igktnab.org
Contact: John Staley
southern.ontario.knotyers@gmail.com
Tel: +(1) 1 905 389 2509

North American Branch - Mid-Atlantic Region - USA

Contact: Michael Pollock
nexialist02@yahoo.com
Tel: +(1) 1 301 649 1165

Pacific Americas - USA

www.igktpab.org/
Contact: Evie Cowper
igktpab@gmail.com
Tel: +(1) 1 310 679 6864
Venue: Los Angeles Maritime Institute 73 Berth Suite 2, San Pedro, CA 90731

All branch details as on IGKT website on 24/5/19

BACK COVER: SHAND MASON STEAM FIRE ENGINE 'ST GEORGE' 1876 **SEE P34**

IGKT SALES	GBP
A New System of Knotting by Harry Asher A new reprint - Harry's creative genius is evident in both his study of knots and his own very useful creations	£7.00
Knotty Potty by 'Jennifer Wren' A final collection of the aphorisms of Geoffrey Budworth	£4.00
Charlie's Knots by Charlie Smith A very personal and easy approach to tying Turks Heads (and other knots) directly in the hand	£3.00
A Practical Approach to Circular Knotworks by Alexander & Christoffer Åström A thorough step-by-step treatment of making circular knots based on Celtic pattern #295	£10.00
A Fresh Approach to Knotting and Ropework by Charles Warner A reprint of this comprehensive and readable work with over 500 clear diagrams	£15.00
A Booklet on Lanyards by Willeke van der Ham A very easy-to-follow introduction to making useful lanyards	£4.00
Design and Make Rope Mats and Rosettes by Nils Kristian Rossing "Recipes" for many circular mats and instructions for using a free downloadable programme to create many others	£10.00
Knotcraft by Stuart Grainger A much-loved book about decorative knotting	£4.00
Turkshead Alternatives by Stuart Grainger Decorative chains and grommets	£3.00
Knotted Fabrics by Stuart Grainger Making mats, covers and baskets etc	£10.00
The DIY Book of Fenders by Colin Jones Does exactly what it says	£10.00
Turksheads the Traditional Way by Eric Franklin A really useful introduction	£3.00
Knotted Novelties by Eric Franklin Reprint of Nylon Novelties	£3.00
Advanced Knotting by Maurice McPartlan An excellent DVD with patterns for complex turksheads	£12.00
Breathing Apparatus Guidelines by Colin Grundy A fascinating story	£4.00
A Study of the Chair Knot by Colin Grundy An excellent review of this important knot	£4.00
Concerning Crosses and More by Brian Field Flat Knots tied in hand	£3.00
Breastplate Designs by Brian Field to make and wear	£3.00
Sailmakers' Palms by Des Pawson 2018 (2010 edition expanded) A history and background of styles and variations of palms, how they are made and some templates for DIY	£12.00
A Comprehensive Text of Turk's Head Knots by James Harvey - a reprint of this great book	£16.00
The Sailor and His Knots by Clifford W Ashley Reprint of the forerunner of ABOK	£10.00
Monographs 1 - 14 Des Pawson - Various prices	
IGKT Car Window Sticker	£1.00
IGKT Cloth Badge	£4.00
IGKT Ditty Bag - 9in high x 6.5in across base. Without lanyard	£9.00
IGKT Enamel Badge - clasp or pin fitting	£4.00

Please e-mail supplies@igkt.net with your order stating your full postal address to which the items should be sent. We will return a payment request to you (including postage & packing) so that you can make secure payment by PayPal online, using any card.

DGWICK'S
TFORD BREWERY